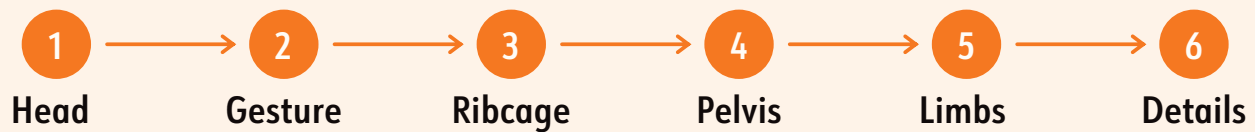


Figure Drawing Do's & Don'ts

12 time-tested principles for building the figure.

The RSA Build Order



Do's

- ✓ Start with the head - a simple shape that becomes your unit of measure.
- ✓ Capture the gesture - one sweeping line for the action of the pose.
- ✓ Build the two core masses - ribcage and pelvis.
- ✓ Set the tilts - the lean of the ribcage against pelvis is the story of the pose.
- ✓ Draw through the form - construct volumes as if they were transparent.
- ✓ Work general to specific - big shapes first, refinement last.

Don'ts

- ✗ Start with hands and feet - appendages come after the core.
- ✗ Choose the contour - outlines before masses leave the figure flat.
- ✗ Draw what you know - draw what you measure and observe.
- ✗ Finish one area early - keep the whole drawing moving together.
- ✗ Add detail before the big relationships are established.
- ✗ Erase your search lines too soon - they are the record of your reasoning.

The Vanderpoel Principle

Master the two great masses: the ribcage and the pelvis, and the gesture between them. The limbs will follow. Then repeat: drawing the same form again and again is how it becomes yours.